



U.S. Department of Energy

National Energy Technology Laboratory



JAN 23 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR BEVERLY A. COOK
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY
AND HEALTH

FROM: RITA A. BAJURA *Rita A. Bajura*
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning
Summary and Site-Wide Review

The attached document contains the Annual NEPA Planning Summary and the Site-Wide NEPA Review for the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). The information is presented using the format provided as guidance, and an electronic file containing the information has been forwarded directly to the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance.

As required by Department of Energy Order 451.1B, the Annual NEPA Planning Summary will be made available to the public. If, during the course of this year, additional Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements are determined to be necessary, an addendum to the Annual Planning Summary will be submitted. Please contact NETL's NEPA Compliance Officer, Lloyd Lorenzi, at 412-386-6159 for any additional information regarding NETL's NEPA plans.

Attachment

cc: EH&S Records Center (DOE 451.1)

e-mail cc: M. Matarrese, DOE-HQ
E. Cohen, DOE-HQ
D. Freeman, DOE-HQ
G. Walker, NPTO
L. Lorenzi

FEB 3 2004

Recd 2/3/04

Annual NEPA Planning Summary				
National Energy Technology Laboratory				
31-Jan-04				
Environmental Assessments				
#	Title; Location Support Contractor; Estimated Cost	Milestone Schedule (Completed / Projected)		Description of Document Status
1421	Demonstration of Hybrid Advanced NOx Control	Notification:	1/28/2002	The originally offered site at the Avon Lake Power Plant near Cleveland, OH, was withdrawn by Orion Power. NEPA activities are on hold pending agreement on a new location for demonstrating the proposed advanced NOx control system.
		Internal Scoping:		
		Draft EA:		
		Public Notice:		
		Close Comments:		
		Final EA:		
		FONSI or EIS Decision:		
TBD	Multi-Pollutant Control Project at the AES Greenidge Power Plant; Dresden, NY Oak Ridge National Laboratory; \$125,000	Determination:	Feb-04	Site visits were conducted in December 2003 and January 2004 for internal scoping and planning NEPA requirements. A NEPA Determination is being prepared.
		Notification:	Feb-04	
		Internal Scoping:	Jan-04	
		Draft EA:	Apr-04	
		Public Notice:	May-04	
		Close Comments:	May-04	
		Final EA:	Jun-04	
FONSI or EIS Decision:	Jun-04			
TBD	Advanced Multi-Product Coal Utilization By-Product Processing Plant; Carrollton, KY U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; \$125,000	Determination:	Feb-04	Site visits have been completed. A NEPA Determination is being prepared.
		Notification:	Feb-04	
		Internal Scoping:	Jan-04	
		Draft EA:	Apr-04	
		Public Notice:	May-04	
		Close Comments:	Jun-04	
		Final EA:	Jul-04	
FONSI or EIS Decision:	Jul-04			

Annual NEPA Planning Summary

National Energy Technology Laboratory

31-Jan-04

Environmental Impact Statements

#	Title; Location Support Contractor; Estimated Cost	Milestone Schedule (Completed / Projected)	Description of Document Status
284	Low Emissions Boiler System Proof-of-Concept Project; Elkhart, IL Oak Ridge National Laboratory; \$400,000	Determination: 9/5/1996	Preliminary Draft EIS (Version 1) submitted 01/15/2002.
		Notification: 9/5/1996	Preliminary Draft EIS (Version 2) submitted 01/07/2003.
		Internal Scoping: Oct. 1996	Preliminary Draft EIS (Version 3) submitted 12/01/2003.
		Notice of Intent: 12/13/1996	Conditional Approval received 01/14/2004.
		FR Announcement: 12/19/1996	Conditional review comments are being addressed.
		Public Meetings: Jan. 1997	
		Close Comments: 2/3/1997	
		Draft EIS: Feb-04	
		Public Meetings: Mar-04	
		Preliminary FEIS: May-04	
357	Gilberton Coal to Clean Fuels and Power Project; Gilberton, PA Oak Ridge National Laboratory; \$800,000	FEIS: Jun-04	
		ROD: Jul-04	
		Determination: 3/5/2003	Information on the processes and technologies proposed for use in the project is being assembled. Data needs are being
		Notification: 3/5/2003	reviewed to avoid use of proprietary information in the EIS
		Internal Scoping: May-03	document. Background information to establish the
		Notice of Intent: 4/4/2003	environmental setting for the proposed project is being collected
		FR Announcement: 4/10/2003	and analyzed.
		Public Meetings: 5/5/2003	
		Close Comments: 5/19/2003	
		Draft EIS: Apr-04	
361	Western Greenbrier Co-Production Demonstration Project; Rainelle, Greenbrier County, WV Potomac-Hudson Engineering; \$746,600	Public Meetings: Jun-04	
		Preliminary FEIS: Aug-04	
		FEIS: Nov-04	
		ROD: Jan-05	
		Determination: 5/12/2003	The contractor to support EIS preparation was recently selected
		Notification: May-03	from DOE's list of NEPA Task Order contractors. Kick-off
		Internal Scoping: May-03	discussions with the contractor and a visit to the proposed site
		Notice of Intent: 5/28/2003	in Greenbrier County were conducted in January 2004. The
		FR Announcement: 6/3/2003	National Park Service has requested participation in the EIS
		Public Meetings: 6/19/2003	process as a cooperating agency.
		Close Comments: 7/3/2003	
		Draft EIS: Jun-04	
		Public Meetings: Jul-04	
		Preliminary FEIS: Sep-04	
		FEIS: Nov-04	
		ROD: Jan-05	
		Determination: 5/12/2003	
		Notification: May-03	
		Internal Scoping: May-03	
		Notice of Intent: 5/28/2003	

Annual NEPA Planning Summary

National Energy Technology Laboratory

31-Jan-04

Environmental Impact Statements

#	Title; Location Support Contractor	Milestone Schedule (Completed / Projected)		Description of Document Status
		Determination:		
362	Next Generation Circulating Fluidized Bed Coal Generating Unit; Fountain, CO Potomac-Hudson Engineering	Notification:	5/12/2003	Colorado Springs Utilities is reconsidering their current need for the proposed project. Thus, NEPA activities are on hold pending a final decision on the proposed project.
		Internal Scoping:	Jun-03	
		Notice of Intent:	8/11/2003	
		FR Announcement:	8/15/2003	
		Public Meetings:	9/3/2003	
		Close Comments:	9/19/2003	
		Draft EIS:	x	
		Public Meetings:	x	
		Preliminary FEIS:	x	
		FEIS:	x	
280	Coal Power from Integrated Coal-Ore Reduction; Provo, UT Oak Ridge National Laboratory	ROD:	x	The proposed project with Geneva Steel Company is on hold pending resolution of technical and financial issues. Thus, NEPA activities have been suspended pending resolution of project issues.
		Determination:	12/27/1996	
		Notification:	12/27/1996	
		Internal Scoping:	Feb. 1997	
		Notice of Intent:	6/22/1999	
		FR Announcement:	6/28/1999	
		Public Meetings:	7/15/1999	
		Close Comments:	8/16/1999	
		Draft EIS:	x	
		Public Meetings:	x	
282	Lakeland McIntosh Unit 4 Demonstration Project; Lakeland, FL U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Preliminary FEIS:	x	This proposed project with the City of Lakeland has been canceled. A Federal Register announcement to provide formal notification regarding termination of EIS activities will be prepared.
		FEIS:	x	
		ROD:	x	
		Determination:	3/18/1997	
		Notification:	3/18/1997	
		Internal Scoping:		
		Notice of Intent:	3/22/1999	
		FR Announcement:	3/26/1999	
		Public Meetings:	4/13/1999	
		Close Comments:	5/21/1999	
		Draft EIS:	x	
		Public Meetings:	x	
		Preliminary FEIS:	x	
		FEIS:	x	
		ROD:	x	
		Determination:		
		Notification:		
		Internal Scoping:		
		Notice of Intent:		
		FR Announcement:		

Annual NEPA Planning Summary

National Energy Technology Laboratory

31-Jan-04

Environmental Impact Statements

#	Title; Location Support Contractor; Estimated Cost	Milestone Schedule (Completed / Projected)	Description of Document Status
366	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Implementing the Office of Fossil Energy's Carbon Sequestration Program Potomac-Hudson Engineering; \$858,000	Determination:	Information collection and analysis are underway to establish a properly robust focus for the Programmatic EIS and to define the logistics and scope in support for the Notice of Intent and public meetings.
		Notification:	
		Internal Scoping:	
		Notice of Intent:	
		FR Announcement:	
		Public Meetings:	
		Close Comments:	
		Draft EIS:	
		Public Meetings:	
		Preliminary FEIS:	
FEIS:			
ROD:			
TBD	Implementation of the FutureGen Project	Determination:	DOE is currently formulating an implementation strategy for the FutureGen project. The NEPA milestone schedule is hypothetical based on an assumed approval in February 2004 for initiation of implementation activities. In advance of approval, planning has been initiated to establish the framework for NEPA support. Due to the time lapse that could occur between the decision to prepare an EIS and the completion of sufficient project planning to initiate broad public involvement, an Advance Notice of Intent would be planned within 2 months following the Determination.
		Notification:	
		Internal Scoping:	
		Notice of Intent:	
		FR Announcement:	
		Public Meetings:	
		Close Comments:	
		Draft EIS:	
		Public Meetings:	
		Preliminary FEIS:	
FEIS:			
ROD:			

Site-Wide NEPA Review

National Energy Technology Laboratory

31-Jan-04

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) evaluated the value of performing a site-wide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review (i.e., preparing an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment) for its three sites at Morgantown, WV; Pittsburgh, PA; and Tulsa, OK. Based on this evaluation using the criteria identified below, NETL determined that site-wide NEPA analysis for any or all of the NETL sites would not facilitate future NEPA planning or NEPA compliance requirements.

Background

The Federal activities at NETL's Morgantown, Pittsburgh, and Tulsa sites consist primarily of procurement, project management, analysis, and contract monitoring of off-site research, development, and demonstration projects related to increasing domestic petroleum and natural gas reserves through application of new or advanced technology, natural gas processing, environmental and efficiency improvements for fossil fuel-based electric power generation, production of transportation fuels from coal and natural gas, energy conservation, improving environmental quality, and supporting initiatives for controlling climate change and sequestering carbon dioxide. NETL's Morgantown and Pittsburgh sites are locations for on-site research and facilities maintenance activities that support DOE's Fossil Energy program. The on-site research at these two locations represent a small portion (e.g., one-tenth) of the total DOE program implemented by NETL. NETL's Tulsa site (the National Petroleum Technology Office) operates from offices in downtown Tulsa and conducts no on-site research.

All projects proposed to NETL for funding are subjected to NEPA review and evaluation prior to final decision and implementation. With only minor exceptions resulting from construction activities, the on-site projects and activities implemented by NETL typically qualify and are appropriate for categorical exclusion under DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

NETL's on-going, on-site operational, research and maintenance activities consist of small projects that vary in type annually but that generally do not vary substantially in size or scale. New projects implemented on an annual basis at NETL historically fall into categories of actions that the Department has determined to be encompassed within classes that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment. For the foreseeable future, this situation is expected to exist. Also, no changes in site character, and no new site development activities, are envisioned in the foreseeable future.

The combination of all research and maintenance activities at the Pittsburgh and Morgantown sites is periodically examined as part of either a planning or a performance analysis process. From these evaluations, the collective environmental consequences from activities at each site have been determined to be insignificant, and NETL does not maintain any permanent storage or disposal areas that could potentially become sources of significant impacts.

Efficiency

NETL's on-site research activities, as determined on an annual basis, typically total 20-40 research projects within specific mission areas assigned to NETL. The types of new activities annually performed on-site are covered within Appendixes A and B of 10 CFR Part 1021 and can efficiently be evaluated individually and collectively in the absence of a site-wide review.

Tiering

A site-wide NEPA document would not preclude the need for annual reviews of the scopes and natures of individual research and other site projects. Due to the relatively small scale and small number of on-site activities, supplemental reviews of activities comprising actions that typically qualify for categorical exclusion would not result in a less complex analysis.

Segmentation and Cumulative Effects

Research projects at NETL typically consist of distinct experimental activities of a nature determined by the Department to be categorically excluded from environmental assessment or environmental impact statement levels of review. These activities are independently evaluated on an annual basis to ensure that they are stand-alone activities and not segments of larger activities that would trigger a more extensive level of review. In addition, no local off-site environmental stresses or developments of a significant nature result from NETL's on-site activities. Thus, no conditions exist where cumulative environmental effects or impacts could become a concern.

Land Use Planning

Activities at the Pittsburgh site are dispersed geographically within the 239-acre Bruceton Research Center, a Federal research site located approximately 13 miles south of Pittsburgh. NETL is a tenant at this site, for which the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is landlord to both DOE and an office of the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Activities at the Morgantown site are more compact and are conducted in buildings situated on 35 developed acres of a 132-acre DOE site, where DOE is landlord to a facility owned by the U.S. Navy. The activities at Tulsa are conducted from an office location in downtown Tulsa.

The NETL sites at Morgantown and Pittsburgh are bordered by residential areas that have substantially developed over the years around the locations of NETL's facilities. Research operations at both sites are conducted in numerous buildings; although these activities may change in scope on an annual basis, their scales are relatively constant. Thus, the available research structures are such that NETL does not anticipate any reasonably foreseeable future need for additional site development or alternative land use that would be facilitated for environmental planning purposes by a site-wide NEPA review.

Public Participation

NETL maintains public contacts and regularly solicits input regarding on-site activities. Community Interest Groups are used to obtain feedback on community interests and concerns, and NETL uses this feedback to enhance communications for a broader understanding and greater acceptance of site activities.

Local media solicitations and announcements are routinely used to obtain public input. In addition, NETL periodically supplements the on-going public interactions through open-house meetings where members of the public can observe NETL's operations first-hand and participate in discussions of NETL's activities.

Conclusion

Based on the above considerations, we have concluded that a site-wide NEPA review for the National Energy Technology Laboratory would not aid in streamlining the NEPA process, would not add additional value to decision-makers and the public, and would not reduce the time and cost required to prepare NEPA documents. Thus, development of a site-wide NEPA review is not planned.